

## Security Quickie 10-22-02: Security Awareness Outreach



Information Security is a growing problem for our nation, our economy, and our private lives. President Bush and his cabinet know this, which is why they are developing the [National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace](#). State of Iowa officials know this, which is why ITD has an Information Security Office, and why the Iowa Office of Homeland Security has included security awareness training for state employees in its [Iowa Homeland Security Initiative](#) draft proposal. All of you know this, because you've watched news on or read about credit card theft, security breaches in federal agencies, new Internet viruses and worms, and have had the opportunity to read security quickies, security blankets, and other security awareness information. Yet many of the awareness and behavior issues we deal with at work are also applicable to home computer use.

Bearing this in mind, I invite you to read and use the recommendations recently cited in the new Federal Trade Commission's online security guide "[Safe at Any Speed: How to Stay Safe Online if You Use High-Speed Internet Access](#)." It explains the risks of high-speed Internet access and the actions everyday users should take to defend themselves and their computers. It's a great guide – it has very useful information and is both easy to read and to follow.

"[Safe at Any Speed](#)" was designed to help citizens both help themselves and help the nation face cyber threats. The guidelines in it are very applicable for use in our workplace as well as at home, so we are making them available to State of Iowa employees. We invite you to read it and brush-up on secure behavior, and even take a guide home and use the recommendations there. If you feel confident in your security knowledge, perhaps you have a friend, an associate, or a family member who might benefit from the guide. Take one and pass it on to them. Help them help themselves.



The ISO "Guidelines for Information Security and Internet Usage" is also available, and can be used as a best-practices guide for both work and home use. It covers Internet and E-mail Usage, password creation and protection, and other everyday security issues. Lastly, small password guidelines help sheets will also be available.

Copies of both FTC and ISO guides will be available via the following means:

At ITD Help Desk and reception areas

At many Capitol Complex departments' reception areas or area kiosks

Order from us via the Information Security Office: [Security.Awareness@itd.state.ia.us](mailto:Security.Awareness@itd.state.ia.us)

FTC documents can be ordered via: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/bulkordr.htm>

Other awareness materials are available via the FTC information security site:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/infosecurity/>

Please remember that user awareness and secure behavior are the best defenses against cyber threats and security compromises. Be a good cyber citizen and help keep your nation, state, and yourself safe from cyber threats.

Thanks for your time.